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Theme for the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The present note is intended to facilitate consultations among Member States on the theme for the high-level segment or successor arrangement of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council. It contains proposals by Member States as well as by organizations of the United Nations system. Proposals by intergovernmental bodies are also included in the note.

In his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005) the Secretary-General has made a number of proposals to strengthen and revitalize the Economic and Social Council. These proposals range from making the Council a forum for peer review of progress in the implementation of the agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and convening a development cooperation forum once every two years, to the need for changing its working methods.

The nature of the changes that the Economic and Social Council will introduce in its structure and functioning as a result of the decisions that the September summit will take cannot be anticipated in detail. It can be assumed, however, that promoting and monitoring the implementation of the United Nations development agenda will be at the centre of the work of the high-level segment or successor arrangement in the period ahead. A part of the ministerial segment of the Council's session of 2006 could, therefore, be devoted to peer review for which modalities will be decided later.

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This should not exclude the selection of a specific topical theme to be addressed by ministers, alongside the review referred to above. Member States, intergovernmental organizations and organizations of the United Nations system have provided an array of rich and wide-ranging proposals for the theme for 2006. The summit is expected to take major decisions in addressing the linkages of development and security. To build on the summit outcome, the Council could select a theme that addresses the challenges of development, including external debt, trade, foreign direct investment, official development assistance, technology and governance in post-conflict situations. Therefore, the following theme is recommended for the Council's deliberations and policy discussions during the high-level segment or successor arrangement of 2006: "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in countries emerging from conflict".

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I. Introduction

1. The present note is submitted to facilitate consultations among Member States on the theme for the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council.

II. Theme for the high-level segment

2. In paragraph 53 of annex I to its resolution 50/227, the General Assembly decided that, with regard to the theme for the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the Council, following consultations with Member States and, through the Secretary-General, with members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, should present a proposal for a topical theme for the following year at the annual substantive session of the Council.[1] It also decided that at its annual substantive session, the Council should undertake consultations on the theme for the high-level segment with a view to reaching a decision, if possible during the substantive session, but not later than at a resumed session in the autumn following the annual session.

3. The Secretary-General consulted Member States through a note verbale dated 31 January 2005. The Secretariat consulted the organizations of the United Nations system and received proposals for a theme. All these proposals as well as proposals by intergovernmental bodies are contained in annexes I to III.

A. Elements to be considered in selecting the theme

4. In selecting the theme for its high-level segment, the Economic and Social Council may wish to take into account the following considerations:

(a) The Council may wish to choose a major economic and/or social policy theme of topical interest;

(b) The theme should allow for an integrated and interdisciplinary approach;

(c) The theme should enable the Council to receive the maximum benefit from ministerial participation and from the presence of heads of agencies, funds, programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system, including the international trade and financial institutions;

(d) The deliberations of the high-level segment should provide political impetus for building areas of convergence and facilitate the consideration of the issues in question, including the emergence of new recommendations on the issues

[1] It may be recalled that the General Assembly, in paragraph 42 of its resolution 57/270 B, requested the Economic and Social Council to establish a multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of its substantive session. In pursuance of that resolution, the Council adopted the theme "Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration" for the coordination segment of the Council in 2005 and decided to continue consultations on a multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of the Council, with a view to finalizing the programme before the 2005 substantive session.

in the relevant forums (see General Assembly resolution 45/264, annex, para. 5 (d) (i));

(e) It may be recalled that the Agenda for Development specified that the Council, in a high-level segment, should consider major issues for international cooperation in the economic, social and related fields. The high-level segment should be used for improving the synergy between the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. In so doing, the Council should also contribute towards enhancing the interaction between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (General Assembly resolution 51/240, annex, para. 252 (a));

(f) It may also be recalled that, in the event that a matter of high urgency and priority subsequently emerges that would qualify as a theme for the high-level segment, the Council may, as appropriate, consider that theme as an additional topic for discussion at its high-level segment (see General Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, para. 53).

5. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 2001/27, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, when it considered the themes for its high-level and coordination segments, information about the multi-year work programmes of the functional commissions. The requested information is contained in the forthcoming consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions in 2005, which will be before the Council.

6. The themes examined by the Council at its high-level segments in previous years are set out in the box below.

Themes examined by the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segments since 1995

1995 Development of Africa, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

1996 International cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities.

1997 Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows, investment and trade.

1998 Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round: implications, opportunity and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization.

1999 The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women.

2000 Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy.

2001 The role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development.

2002 The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development.

2003 Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

2004 Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

2005 Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities.

B. Proposals by the Secretary-General

7. In his report entitled "In larger freedom" (A/59/2005), the Secretary-General has made a number of proposals to strengthen and revitalize the Economic and Social Council. These proposals range from making the Council a forum for peer review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals, and convening a development cooperation forum once every two years, to the need for changing its working methods.

8. The nature of the changes that the Economic and Social Council will introduce in its structure and functioning as a result of the decisions that the September summit will take in the light of the proposals of the Secretary-General and the views of Member States cannot be anticipated in detail. However, it can be assumed that promoting and monitoring the implementation of the United Nations development agenda will be at the centre of the work of the high-level segment or successor arrangement in the period ahead. A part of the ministerial segment of the Council's session for 2006 would therefore have to be devoted to peer review, for which modalities will be decided later.

9. This should not exclude the selection of a specific topical theme to be addressed by ministers, alongside the review referred to above. Member States, intergovernmental bodies and organizations of the United Nations system have presented an array of wide-ranging proposals for selecting such a theme for 2006. These suggestions provide a sound basis for developing a proposal for next year. However, there is a need to ensure that the theme should enable the Economic and Social Council to build on the outcome of the September summit, as it is expected to take important decisions with regard to the linkages of development and security. The Council could reinforce the efforts to implement these decisions by selecting a theme that addresses the challenges of development, including external debt, trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance (ODA), technology and governance, in specific situations like countries emerging from conflict.

10. Against this backdrop, the issue of promoting longer term development in countries emerging from conflict, particularly in Africa, needs to be given serious consideration. The Economic and Social Council has already contributed to linking the issues of security and development by establishing the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi. These groups have successfully begun to help in mobilizing a system-wide coordinated response to the needs of those countries.[2]

11. In July 2003, the General Assembly adopted by consensus its resolution 57/337 on prevention of armed conflict. In paragraph 32 of the annex, the Assembly supported the more active involvement of the Economic and Social Council with regard to the prevention of armed conflict, taking into account the need to promote socio-economic measures, including economic growth, in support of poverty eradication and development, as a core element of Council strategy in that regard. More recently, the Secretary-General recommended that the Economic and Social Council should institutionalize its work in post-conflict management by working with the proposed Peacebuilding Commission and that it should also reinforce its link with the Security Council in order to promote structural prevention (A/59/2005, para. 178).

12. In the light of the above considerations, the following theme is recommended for the Council's deliberations and policy discussions during the high-level segment or successor arrangement of 2006: "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in countries emerging from conflict".

13. Such a focus would enable the Economic and Social Council to make a distinct contribution to help integrate conflict perspective more firmly in development policies and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as in the follow-up processes to United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the September summit.

[2] On 15 July 2002, at its substantive session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2002/1, by which it decided to consider creating a framework for an advisory group at the request of any African country emerging from conflict. Council decision 2002/304 established the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi was established by Council resolution 2003/16.

Annex I

Proposals by Member States

(a) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: (i) "International coordination and cooperation to address the global water crises, with a view to securing safe drinking water for everyone in the world"; (ii) "International cooperation aiming at enhancing the ability to fight epidemics and infectious diseases";

(b) The United States of America: "Promoting good governance and combating corruption";

(c) Japan: "The current state of and future prospects for cooperation among developing countries and between developed and developing countries in promoting South-South trade and foreign direct investment";

(d) Lebanon: (i) "Innovative debt management techniques and debt rescheduling to maximize the socio-economic benefits of debt reduction on heavily indebted developing countries"; (ii) "Optimize the socio-economic benefits of trade liberalization and free trade blocks by enhancing the competitiveness of developing countries"; (iii) "The challenges and opportunities of the knowledge economy to developing countries"; (iv) Promoting the transfer of know-how, technology, foreign direct investment (FDI) and human resources to emerging and developing economies";

(e) European Union: "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Review Summit and achieving the Millennium Development Goals";

(f) Venezuela: "The incidence that the payment of the foreign debt has had on the poverty growth in developing countries, in terms of the social cost and the investments that are sacrificed in the national budgets as a consequence of the indebtedness";

(g) Bolivia: "External debt and its influence in the eradication of poverty: entailment with commerce, financing and poverty";

(h) India: Focus on themes that would pay greater attention to the "adverse international economic environment faced by developing countries and the role that the international financial and trade institutions could play in alleviating these adverse conditions".

Annex II

Proposals by organizations of the United Nations system

(a) World Food Programme: "Meeting the needs of children: an essential foundation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals";

(b) United Nations University: (i) "Strengthening the ability of recipient countries to absorb increased aid flows and to use them effectively for development"; (ii) "Addressing and resolving the environmental causes and consequences of violent conflict"; (iii) "New initiatives to mobilize private and public finance for education";

(c) International Maritime Organization: (i) "International shipping — carrier of world trade"; (ii) "International cooperation to enhance social security and ensure sustainable socio-economic development"; (iii) "Promoting an integrated approach to safeguarding the marine environment as a global source of nutrition, sustainable biodiversity and natural wealth";

(d) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: "Role of the Economic and Social Council in leading the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and institutions and supporting the Member States in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits";

(e) The World Tourism Organization: "Special measures for the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in countries that are facing the aftermath of severe natural disasters, epidemics or terrorism";

(f) International Labour Office: "The role of international trade and finance in support of national strategies to promote the quality and quantity of employment and efforts to combat poverty";

(g) International Monetary Fund: "The relevance of national policies to promote growth";

(h) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: (i) "The role of the United Nations in implementing the first phase (2005-2007) of the Plan of Action for the World Programme for Human Rights Education, with particular focus on countries emerging from conflict or recovering from natural disasters"; (ii) "The United Nations as a forum for fostering education for sustainable development activities in governments, non-governmental organizations, and other partnerships and as a means to support the Millennium Development Goals"; (iii) "Capacity-building for enhancing sustainable development"; (iv) The challenges of building a knowledge society"; (v) "Public and private sector cooperation: achieving international development goals in an equitable, sustainable and environmentally sound manner through effective partnership"; (vi) "Fostering an environment for evidence-based policy-making"; (vii) "Bridging the gap between researchers and policymakers to put science in the service of social needs"; (viii) "Enhancing the role of the sciences for social and sustainable development"; (ix) "Achieving internationally agreed development goals by improving the cooperation between Ministers of Social Development and Ministers of Economy and/or

Finance"; (x) "The role of cultural heritage in economic development (in addition to the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the adoption in 2003 of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, a Convention that is expected to enter into force in 2006, aims at safeguarding living cultural heritage transmitted from generation to generation)"; (xi) "Building inclusive knowledge societies: harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies"; (xii) "Promotion of productivity, scientific and technical innovation, access to and sharing of knowledge, including indigenous knowledge, as factors of acceleration of economic and social transformations in developing countries, particularly in Africa"; (xiii) "Rehabilitation and promotion of non-structured economy, particularly of non-formal and family economies, in countries with difficulties, as a means of fighting against poverty and improving the living conditions of the vulnerable population, mainly youth";

(i) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "The impact of corruption on economic and social development";

(j) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: (i) "From relief to development: towards ensuring sustainability"; (ii) "Combining conservation and sustainable use of natural resources with poverty reduction"; (iii) "Mobilizing national and international action in response to natural disasters: lessons from recent experiences";

(k) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: "Labour markets and the challenges to social protection in a globalized world: demographic transformations, changing employment relations and migration".

Annex III

Proposals by intergovernmental bodies

1. In its resolution 2003/60 on public administration and development, the Economic and Social Council reiterated that strengthening public administration and the State were at the forefront of the development agenda to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that revitalizing public administration was considered to be one of the essential components of economic and social development, and in that context decided to explore the possibility of considering that theme at a future high-level segment.

2. At the third session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, held at United Nations Headquarters from 29 March to 2 April 2004,[a] the Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council reaffirm the role of the public service in the fulfilment of the specific national goals for socio-economic development, as they are key indicators of the Member States' attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, the Committee reiterated its earlier recommendation to the Council that it devote one of its next high-level segments to the changing role of a public administration geared to development, both economic and human, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with public service delivery as the pivotal element. The Committee of Experts proposed that the segment could be entitled: "A service-oriented public administration for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals".

3. At its 49th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of draft decision II adopted by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the elements contained therein and decided to consider indigenous issues as a theme for its high-level segment in 2006, in accordance with established procedures set out in General Assembly resolution 50/227 (decision 2003/301, "High-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council").

4. In its Plan of Implementation, the World Summit on Sustainable Development[b] called upon the Economic and Social Council to organize periodic consideration of sustainable development themes in regard to the implementation of Agenda 21, including the means of implementation. Recommendations in regard to such themes could be made by the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Commission has not made any recommendation so far.

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[a] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 44* (E/2004/44).

[b] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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Economic and environmental questions: transport of dangerous goods

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 645 G (XXIII), the Secretary-General reports biennially to the Council on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, and of its two subcommittees.

The present report concerns the work of the Committee of Experts during the biennium 2003-2004 and the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/64.

In accordance with that resolution, the secretariat has published the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*, the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria* and the first edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*.

All main legal instruments or codes governing the international transport of dangerous goods by sea, air, road, rail or inland waterway have been amended accordingly, with effect as from 1 January 2005, and many Governments have also

* E/2005/100.

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transposed the provisions of the *Model Regulations* into their own legislation for domestic traffic for application as from 2005.

Many Governments and international organizations have taken steps to revise existing national and international legislation in order to implement the GHS by the recommended target date of 2008.

The Committee adopted amendments to the *Model Regulations* and the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, which consist mainly of new or revised provisions that concern the reporting of accidents; the classification of fireworks; harmonization with the GHS; the transport of infectious substances, radioactive material and environmentally hazardous substances: new dangerous substances and articles; the conditions of loading and transport operations; aerosol dispensers; and impact testing of portable tanks.

The Committee also adopted amendments to the GHS that consist mainly in the clarification of classification criteria for toxic substances, the addition of aspiration hazard criteria and the addition of guidance material for precautionary statements, safety data sheets and labelling.

The Committee adopted a programme of work for the biennium 2005-2006; sessions for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and for the Committee have been planned for the period 2005-2006 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65.

The Committee is recommending a draft resolution on its work for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

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I. Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. **The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:**

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, 2001/34 of 26 July 2001, 2001/44 of 20 December 2001 and 2003/64 of 25 July 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals[1] during the biennium 2003-2004,

A

Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Committee for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

Bearing in mind the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport,

Noting the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into worldwide commerce, and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Recalling its resolution 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 whereby it requested the Committee to study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the then Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport which would take into account the general scope of a future convention on international intermodal transport,

Recalling also that in response to resolution 1973 (LIX) the Committee had, until now, been of the view that the consideration of such a convention would not be appropriate until the various international agreements or conventions governing international transport of dangerous goods had not been harmonized,

Noting that the major international instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by the various modes of transport (International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous

Goods by Air, European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail, European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway) and as many national regulations are now harmonized with the Model Regulations annexed to the Committee recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods, but that the lack of simultaneity in the updating process of national inland transport legislation in most countries of the world remains the major reason for regulatory disharmony at the worldwide level and represents a serious legislative obstacle to international multimodal transport,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with respect to matters relating to the transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations[2] on the transport of dangerous goods to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the fourteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*[3] and the amendments to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*[4] in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, no later than the end of 2005;

(c) To make those publications available on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe,[5] which also provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them available also on CD-ROM;

3. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other concerned international organizations to transmit to the secretariat of the Committee their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

4. *Also invites* all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned to take into account, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the Committee to study, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental organizations concerned, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of a convention on multimodal international transport of dangerous goods, or any other possibility of improving simultaneous implementation of the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in all countries for the purposes of ensuring a high level of safety and eliminating technical barriers to international trade;

B

Work of the Committee regarding the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Bearing in mind that the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of Implementation,[6] encouraged countries to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

Bearing also in mind that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and requested the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Plan relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination,

Noting with satisfaction:

(a) That all United Nations programmes and specialized agencies concerned with chemical safety in the field of transport or of the environment, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, have taken appropriate steps to amend or consider amending their legal instruments in order to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

(b) That the International Labour Office and the World Health Organization are also taking appropriate steps to adapt their existing chemical safety recommendations, codes and guidelines to the Globally Harmonized System, in particular in the areas of occupational health and safety and of the prevention and treatment of poisoning;

(c) That Member States participating in the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, as well as the European Commission, are actively preparing revisions of national or regional legislation applicable to chemicals for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

(d) That several United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and regional organizations, in particular the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Governments, the European Commission and non-governmental organizations representing the chemical industry, have organized or contributed to multiple workshops, seminars and other capacity-building activities at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in order to raise administration, health sector and industry awareness and to prepare for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals,

Aware that effective implementation by 2008 will require further cooperation between the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the international bodies concerned, continued efforts by the Governments of the Member States, cooperation with the

industry and other affected parties, and significant support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition and developing countries,

Recalling the particular significance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Organization/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for building capacities at all levels,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)* in the six official languages of the United Nations, in book form[7] and on CD-ROM,[8] and the availability of that and related material on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe;[5]

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Committee, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation and their commitment to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the amendments[9] to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the first revised edition[10] of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* in all the official languages of the United Nations in the most cost-effective manner no later than the end of 2005, and to make it available on CD-ROM and on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe,[5] which provides secretariat services to the Committee;

4. *Invites* Governments who have not yet done so to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, as recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, workplace safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals through such instruments;

6. *Invites* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feedback on implementation to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

7. *Encourages* Governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular industry, to strengthen their support of the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals by providing financial contributions and/or technical assistance to capacity-building activities in developing countries and to countries in transition;

C

Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2005-2006 as contained in paragraphs 41 to 42 of the present report,

Noting the relatively poor representation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee and the need to ensure their wider participation in its work,

Noting with concern that the General Service staff resources requested for the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals when it was established and which had been provided through general temporary assistance until end 2004 were suppressed in 2004, irrespective of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session,[11]

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of experts from developing countries as well as from countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, and calls, in that regard, for voluntary contributions to facilitate their participation, including through support for travel and daily subsistence allowance, and invites Member States and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reallocate appropriate General Service staff resources for the activities of the Committee;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2005 on the implementation of the present resolution, the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

II. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/64 of 25 July 2003

A. Publications

2. As requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/64, the Secretary-General prepared the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*[12] The edition was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (240 copies), Chinese (125 copies), English (4,440 copies), French (905 copies), Russian (260 copies) and Spanish (450 copies).

3. The fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*[13] was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (220 copies), Chinese (125 copies), English (3,965 copies), French (805 copies), Russian (200 copies) and Spanish (400 copies).

4. The first edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*,[7] was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (245 copies), Chinese (160 copies), English (2,450 copies), French (780 copies), Russian (215 copies) and Spanish (445 copies).

5. Combined versions of the *Model Regulations* and the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*[14] and of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* and the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*[8] were also published for sale (bilingual, English and French) on CD-ROM, and are available in all official languages upon request.

6. The *Model Regulations* and the *GHS* are available online in all languages on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).[5]

B. Implementation of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations

7. In its resolution 2003/64, the Economic and Social Council invited all interested Governments, regional commissions and specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to consider taking into account the recommendations of the Committee.

8. The provisions of the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*[12] have been incorporated in the following international instruments:

(a) International Maritime Organization (IMO): International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (amendment 32-04, of mandatory application for the 155 contracting parties to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS 74) as from 1 January 2006);

(b) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO): 2005 edition of the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (mandatory application for the 188 contracting parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation as from 1 January 2005);

(c) International Air Transport Association (IATA): 2005 (forty-sixth) edition of the Dangerous Goods Regulations (applicable as from 1 January 2005);

(d) Economic Commission for Europe: European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR 2005) (as from 1 July 2005) (40 contracting parties);

(e) Economic Commission for Europe: European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN 2005), for application as from 1 January 2005;

(f) Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF): Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by

Rail (RID 2005) (annex I to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail) (applicable as from 1 January 2005) (42 contracting parties).

9. In the member States of the European Union, the provisions of ADR 2005 and RID 2005 will also apply to domestic traffic as from 1 July 2005.

10. The Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) are still working on the updating of the agreement on the inland transport of dangerous goods (*Acuerdo sobre Transporte de Mercancías Peligrosas en el MERCOSUR*, 1994), which is based on the seventh revised edition[15] of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, RID and ADR.

11. The Andean Community (*Comunidad Andina*) (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) have developed draft regulations based on the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*, the ADR 2005 and the RID 2005, for public enquiry until May 2005.

12. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific published, in 1997, *Guidelines for the Establishment of National and Regional Systems for Inland Transportation of Dangerous Goods*,[16] recommending the implementation of the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods. The transport ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed, on 20 September 2002, Protocol No. 9 to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit. The Protocol provides for the simplification of procedures and requirements for the transit transport of dangerous goods in ASEAN countries, using the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations* and the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Goods by Road.

13. In 1999 the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon) adopted regulations concerning the transport of dangerous goods that are partly based on old provisions of the ADR but that are not fully in line with the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*.

14. With respect to domestic inland transport of dangerous goods in individual countries, except as described above, implementation of the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods may vary considerably depending on the national procedures for enacting law or updating regulations. For example, the regulations applicable in the United States of America (Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations) are normally updated on a yearly basis, and they have been updated to reflect the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, with very few exceptions. The Canadian regulations are still based on the eleventh revised edition.[17] The *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail* (1998 version) is based on the ninth revised edition of the *Recommendations*,[18] but an additional version, based on the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations* is under consideration. The twelfth revised edition[19] of the *Recommendations* has been adopted as a national standard in Malaysia and is being implemented through national legislation in Thailand.

15. Although international transport of dangerous goods is facilitated by the harmonization of the major international conventions or agreements concerning

transport of dangerous goods with the Model Regulations, and their simultaneous updating, the fact that certain national regulations applicable to inland transport are not brought into line simultaneously, or completely, is still causing problems in international trade, in particular in the case of multimodal transport. For that reason, the Committee included in its draft programme of work an item on options to facilitate global harmonization of regulations on the transport of dangerous goods with the Model Regulations, including consideration of the possibility of developing a world convention for the international transport of dangerous goods (see para. 41 (a) (ix)).

C. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

16. The World Summit on Sustainable Development at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of implementation,[6] encouraged countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008.

17. Since the GHS addresses several sectors (transport, consumers occupational health and safety, environment), its effective implementation requires significant efforts from Member States for amending many existing legal texts concerning chemical safety in each sector, or enacting new legislation.

18. As the GHS was published in 2003, with 2008 as the recommended implementation deadline, it is too early to evaluate precisely to what extent it has been implemented worldwide.

19. In the transport sector, the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations* have already been amended to reflect the relevant GHS provisions, and it is expected that all major international instruments listed in paragraph 8 will be amended accordingly for effective application in 2007, and that all national regulations which are based on these instruments, or which are regularly updated on the basis of the Model Regulations, will also be amended accordingly for application in 2007.

20. In the other sectors, the situation is more complex because implementation will require the amendment or revision of a considerable number of different legal texts and guidelines for application. Time will also be needed for classifying chemical products according to the new criteria, issuing new material safety data sheets, training workers and raising consumers' awareness.

21. In 2003 and 2004, the main implementation activities consisted in the organization, by most members of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Subcommittee) and by non-governmental organizations participating in its work, of numerous national awareness-raising workshops for management, industry and workers, which were also intended to plan policy and law changes and to initiate training activities.

22. The review of existing legislation has been initiated in all countries which are members of the GHS Subcommittee, and for the European Union, by the European Commission. Some members of the GHS Subcommittee provided direct technical

advice and expertise to other Member States that are not members of the Subcommittee.

23. With the financial support of several Member States, the European Commission and of the private sector, several additional capacity-building and training activities were carried out, with participation of experts of the GHS Subcommittee, by various organizations or programmes, in particular:

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Organization (UNITAR/ILO) Global GHS Capacity-Building Programme and World Summit for Sustainable Development Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to implement the GHS:

- Workshop in Zambia for 14 countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- Workshop in Brazil for MERCOSUR and Andean Community countries;
- Development of national GHS action plans in pilot countries (Senegal, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zambia) and technical assistance (ILO) to Fiji and Guyana;
- Survey of capacity-building needs for all developing countries and 17 countries in Asia and the Pacific;
- Workshop on GHS during the fourth session of the Intergovermental Forum on Chemical Safety (which also adopted a plan of action for implementation of the GHS);
- Development of a roster of GHS experts (in cooperation with the secretariat of the GHS Subcommittee);
- Establishment of a GHS capacity-building programme advisory group, the meetings of which are held back-to-back with those of the GHS Subcommittee;

(b) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):

- Various workshops and seminars for all APEC member States, and monitoring of implementation;

(c) World Health Organization/International Labour Organization/United Nations Environment Programme (WHO/ILO/UNEP) International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS):

- International workshop on the GHS for first aid and poison centres;
- Adaptation of the IPCS/ILO International Chemical Control Toolkit to the GHS;
- Review of the Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (ICADS), the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard,[20] and the International Chemical Safety Cards;

(d) The Baltic Environment Forum (one workshop for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)).

24. The GHS Subcommittee has also established cooperation with treaty bodies that administer certain international conventions dealing with specific aspects of

chemical safety in order to facilitate the implementation of the GHS through such conventions (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention); Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer), and such cooperation has also been initiated for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (see also para. 39).

III. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2003-2004

A. Meetings held

25. The following meetings were held during the biennium 2003-2004:

(a) Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: twenty-third session, 30 June to 4 July 2003 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/46 and Add.1); twenty-fourth session, 3 to 10 December 2003 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/48 and Add.1); twenty-fifth session, 5 to 14 July 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/50 and Add.1); and twenty-sixth session, 29 November to 7 December 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/52);

(b) Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: fifth session, 7 to 9 July 2003 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/10); sixth session, 10 to 12 December 2003 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/12); seventh session, 14 to 16 July 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/14); and eighth session, 7 to 9 December 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/16);

(c) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: second session, 10 December 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/32 and Add.1-3).

26. The following 34 countries participated in the work of the Committee as full members of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Subcommittee), of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Subcommittee), or of both subcommittees: Argentina; Australia; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Canada; China; Czech Republic; Denmark;[21] Finland; France; Germany; Greece;[21] India;[22] Iran (Islamic Republic of); Ireland;[21] Italy; Japan; Mexico;[22] Morocco; Netherlands; New Zealand;[21] Norway; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Russian Federation;[22] Senegal;[21] Serbia and Montenegro;[21] South Africa; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and United States of America.

27. Morocco, full member of the TDG Subcommittee, and Qatar and Ukraine, full members of the GHS Subcommittee, did not participate.

28. The Governments of Algeria,[22] the Bahamas,[22] Bulgaria, Republic of Korea,[21] Romania, Slovenia,[21] Switzerland, Thailand,[21] Tunisia[22] and Zambia[21] were represented by observers. The Commission of the European Communities, 13

specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations and 39 non-governmental organizations also participated.

29. Liaison was maintained with the international bodies or organizations responsible for individual modes of transport, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (for inland transport in those regions), the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail.

30. The Committee paid special attention to the coordination of its own activities with those of other international organizations whose activities impinge on the field of transport of dangerous goods or of classification of chemicals, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), ILO, WHO, UNEP, UNITAR and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to ensure that their work would complement, rather than duplicate or clash with, its own activities and recommendations.

31. Secretariat services were provided by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe.

B. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

32. During the biennium 2003-2004, the Subcommittee discussed various questions related to its terms of reference in accordance with the programme of work described in Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/64, part C, paragraph 2, and document E/2003/46, paragraph 29 (a).

33. On the basis of that work, the Committee adopted amendments[2] to the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations* and to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria* consisting mainly of new or revised provisions concerning:

(a) The reporting of accidents and incidents;

(b) The classification of fireworks for transport;

(c) The harmonization of the Model Regulations with the GHS;

(d) The transport of infectious substances;

(e) The harmonization of the Model Regulations with the IAEA regulations for the safe transport of radioactive material;

(f) The listing and classification of some existing and new dangerous substances and articles and related packing methods and the revision of some packing requirements;

(g) The transport conditions for substances hazardous to the aquatic environment;

(h) The general provisions applicable to loading of dangerous goods and transport operations;

(i) The testing of aerosol dispensers;

(j) The impact testing of portable tanks.

34. The Subcommittee considered that its work on guiding principles for the Model Regulations, evaluation of United Nations packaging requirements and transport of dangerous goods in limited quantities should be pursued in the biennium 2005-2006, and that the work on standardization of emergency measures should be discontinued.

35. **The action to be taken by the Economic and Social Council, recommended by the Committee with respect to the work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, is reflected in part A, operative paragraphs 1 to 5, of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**

C. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

36. During the biennium 2003-2004, the Subcommittee discussed various questions related to its terms of reference in accordance with its programme of work described in resolution 2003/64, part C, paragraph 2 and document E/2003/46, paragraph 29 (b).

37. On the basis of that work, the Committee adopted amendments[9] to the first version of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals intended to clarify or to complement it, concerning the following in particular:

(a) Clarification of the criteria for acute toxicity, reproductive toxicity and target organ systemic toxicity;

(b) New criteria for aspiration hazards;

(c) Guidance for the use of precautionary statements and precautionary pictograms;

(d) Guidance for the preparation of safety data sheets;

(e) Additional guidance for labelling and new pictogram for organic peroxides.

38. The Subcommittee kept under review progress made in the implementation of the GHS on the basis of reports submitted by its members and participating intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

39. The Subcommittee initiated cooperation with treaty bodies established under international conventions concerning chemical safety to promote the implementation of the GHS through such conventions (see also para. 24).

40. **The action to be taken by the Economic and Social Council, recommended by the Committee with respect to the work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, is reflected in part B, operative paragraphs 1 to 7 of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**

IV. Programme of work and schedule of meetings for the biennium 2005-2006

41. The Committee agreed that the programme of work for the biennium 2005-2006 should be as follows:

(a) Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods:

(i) Transport of gases (harmonization and standardization);

(ii) Explosives (test series 8);

(iii) Listing, classification and harmonization with the GHS (including list of aquatic pollutants);

(iv) Packagings (including packaging performance and review of Chapter 6.3);

(v) Limited quantities;

(vi) Cooperation with IAEA;

(vii) Improvement of hazard communication;

(viii) Guiding principles for the Model Regulations;

(ix) Options to facilitate global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the Model Regulations and their implementation, including a world convention for the international transport of dangerous goods;

(x) Miscellaneous amendments to the Model Regulations, as necessary;

(b) Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:

(i) Work on health hazards

a. Pursue work on classification criteria for substances which, in contact with water, release toxic/corrosive gases;

b. Continue the work on toxic gas mixtures (TGM) (in cooperation with OECD);

c. Examine the issue of sensitization/induction/elicitation and propose amendments to the criteria as appropriate (in cooperation with OECD);

d. Continue to examine the available information concerning strong versus weak sensitizers and, if appropriate, propose revisions to the classification criteria for respiratory and/or dermal sensitization (in cooperation with OECD);

e. Pursue work on carcinogenicity potency estimation (in cooperation with OECD);

f. Pursue work on developing guidance on the importance of different factors concerning criteria for carcinogenicity (in cooperation with OECD);

g. Pursue work on amending the classification criteria for "toxic to reproduction" to develop guidance on appropriate parameters on relative potency of a chemical (in cooperation with OECD);

(ii) Work on environmental hazards

a. Pursue work to improve further the classification scheme on chronic aquatic toxicity hazards (in cooperation with OECD);

b. Continue to develop criteria for the classification and labelling of environmental terrestrial hazards;

c. Examine possibilities of developing classification criteria for ozone-depleting substances in cooperation with the Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (in cooperation with OECD);

d. Complete work on validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol for metals (in cooperation with OECD);

(iii) Work on hazard communication issues

a. Develop guidance on the interpretation of the building-block approach;

b. Discuss the need, and if appropriate develop a proposal, for a hierarchy of labelling elements for chemicals presenting multiple hazards;

(iv) Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

a. Initiate activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in Member Countries;

b. Cooperate with the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concern;

c. Cooperate with intergovernmental bodies responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with chemical management issues, in order to work out ways to give effect to the GHS through such instruments;

d. Review reports on training and capacity-building activities;

e. Provide assistance to United Nations programmes and specialized agencies involved in training and capacity-building activities, such as UNITAR, ILO and WHO/IPCS, through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources;

f. Explore a working relationship with WHO/IPCS to assist implementation of the GHS in relevant activities and instruments among global health partners.

42. Bearing in mind that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65, the maximum number of meeting days allocated to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies is 38 (76 meetings), the Committee agreed that the schedule of meetings for the period 2005-2006 should be as follows:

2005

4-8 July 2005: TDG Subcommittee: 10 meetings

11-13 (a.m.) July 2005: GHS Subcommittee: 5 meetings

28 November-7 December 2005: TDG Subcommittee: 15 meetings

7 (p.m.)-9 December 2005: GHS Subcommittee: 5 meetings

(Total: TDG Subcommittee: 25 meetings; GHS Subcommittee: 10 meetings)

2006

3-12 (a.m.) July 2006: TDG Subcommittee: 15 meetings

12 (p.m.)-14 July 2006: GHS Subcommittee: 5 meetings

4-12 (a.m.) December 2006: TDG Subcommittee: 13 meetings

12 (p.m.)-14 December 2006: GHS Subcommittee: 5 meetings

15 December 2006: Committee: 2 meetings

(Total: TDG Subcommittee: 28 meetings; GHS Subcommittee: 10 meetings; Committee: 2 meetings)

43. For the Secretariat resources allocated to the work of the GHS Subcommittee, the Committee noted that the General Service staff resources that were requested when the GHS Subcommittee was established were discontinued in 2004, and reflected its concerns in part C of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report, which requests in its operative paragraph 3 that those resources be reallocated. **In this respect, the Economic and Social Council may wish to note that those resources were, until 2004, provided through general temporary assistance. The provision of such resources was discontinued in 2004, owing to the combined effects of General Assembly resolution 58/270 of 23 December 2003 whereby it was decided (para. 26) to abolish three General Service posts in the Economic Commission for Europe and (para. 28) to reduce the provision for general temporary assistance.**

44. **Action to be taken by the Economic and Social Council, recommended by the Committee with respect to its programme of work, is reflected in part C, operative paragraphs 1 to 3, of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**

Notes

[1] E/2005/53.

[2] ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.1 and Add.2.

[3] ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14.

[4] ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4.

[5] http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.E.25 and Corr.1.

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.03.0.22.

[9] ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.3.

[10] ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1.

[11] E/2003/46, para. 33.

[12] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.VIII.5 and Corr.1.

[13] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.VIII.2.

[14] United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.03.VIII.6.

[15] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.VIII.2.

[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.II.F.49.

[17] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.VIII.1 and corrigenda.

[18] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.VIII.1.

[19] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.VIII.4 and corrigenda.

[20] See *The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification, 2004* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2005).

[21] GHS Subcommittee only.

[22] TDG Subcommittee only.

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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Social and human rights questions: advancement of women

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Summary

The present report, which is based on inputs received from United Nations entities, has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/4 on the review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and General Assembly resolution 59/168. The report outlines gaps between policy and practice in the area of gender mainstreaming and focuses on action plans as well as other measures to promote gender mainstreaming by providing illustrative examples from United Nations entities. It also outlines action planned by organizations and bodies of the United Nations common system and makes recommendations for consideration by the Council on enhancing gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system.

* E/2005/100.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2004/4 on the review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, the Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations entities develop action plans with time lines for implementing the agreed conclusions 1997/2, which should address the gap between policy and practice identified in the Secretary-General's report (E/2004/59), with a view to strengthening commitment and accountability at the highest levels within the United Nations system as well as to establishing mechanisms to ensure accountability, systematic monitoring and reporting on progress in implementation. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the implementation of the agreed conclusions 1997/2, with a particular focus on bridging the gap between policies and practice on the basis of gender mainstreaming action plans.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/168, requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and to recommend further measures and strategies for future action within the United Nations system.

3. The present report, which is based on inputs received from organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,[1] was prepared in response to these resolutions. It outlines gaps between policy and practice and focuses on gender mainstreaming action plans as well as other measures to promote gender mainstreaming by providing illustrative examples from entities. It also outlines action planned by entities of the United Nations system and makes recommendations for consideration by the Economic and Social Council on enhancing gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system.

II. Gaps between policy and practice

4. In his report to the Economic and Social Council (E/2004/59) on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Economic and Social Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2, the Secretary-General concluded that gender equality policies and strategies are largely in place throughout the United Nations system. Despite attention given to institutional requirements, such as specialist gender resources, capacity-building, the development and use of methodologies and tools, including sex-disaggregated data, serious continuing challenges included: underdeveloped monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms; inadequate utilization of gender specialists; and insufficient capacity for gender analysis.[2]

5. In their contributions to the present report, many United Nations entities confirmed that these and other factors contribute to the existing gaps between policy and practice. To ensure the implementation of policies, strategies and action plans on gender equality, it is particularly important to link these policies, strategies and

action plans to overall goals within the organizations of the common system. It is also critical to incorporate gender perspectives in programming processes, including programme budgets and multi-year funding frameworks. The following sections give a brief overview of the areas that were identified as presenting particular challenges.

A. Commitment, accountability and political will

6. Many entities, for example the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), noted the need for strong commitment by senior management to gender mainstreaming. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other entities stressed that responsibility for gender mainstreaming must be shared among all staff of an organization. Some entities, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), emphasized that there was a need for enhanced understanding of gender mainstreaming as a strategy to achieve gender equality rather than an end in itself. The Office of Internal Oversight Services and other entities noted the importance of consistent, long-term organizational commitment.

B. Capacity and awareness of staff

7. Several entities identified the lack of awareness and expertise of staff as contributing to the gap between policy and practice. FAO emphasized that in order to achieve and maintain a good level of expertise in gender mainstreaming, it was crucial to make awareness raising and training of staff in operational and technical departments a continuous and ongoing process with regular follow-up. ESCWA also noted the need to train gender focal points so that they could adequately serve as resource persons. Human and financial resources for capacity-building were often insufficient.

8. A few entities noted that the concept of gender remained unclear to staff. FAO noted that existing tools to mainstream gender perspectives were often not fully incorporated from the beginning of the process but instead added on at later stages. ESCWA reported that a lack of clear instructions on how to mainstream gender perspectives into specific programmes and activities resulted in gender mainstreaming not being taken seriously or given priority.

C. Human and financial resources

9. For some entities, limited human and financial resources for successful gender mainstreaming represented a major challenge. The Department of Political Affairs identified the lack of resources for dedicated gender adviser posts and targeted operational projects as a remaining challenge. ESCWA emphasized the need for full-time staff to serve as resource persons, train others and monitor progress in the implementation of gender mainstreaming.

10. Entities noted that another challenge was to ensure the effective role of gender focal points. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that the efficiency of networks of gender focal points can be hampered by the lack of

capacity, seniority, time and resources. As a result, such mechanisms could reinforce the marginalization of gender equality issues. ESCWA noted that gender focal points often performed their functions in addition to other tasks and that gender mainstreaming responsibilities were insufficiently reflected in workplans and performance appraisals.

D. Monitoring and reporting and sex-disaggregated statistics

11. Some entities, for example the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), noted the need for monitoring on a regular basis and for indicators to measure progress in implementing activities. Another factor contributing to the continuing gap between policy and practice was the lack of data disaggregated by sex, or, as reported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the insufficient use of available data for gender analysis. ESCWA noted that this prevented effective understanding of the gender perspectives in various fields, inter alia, poverty, unemployment, education, work in the informal sector, disabilities and violence against migrant workers.

E. Limited gender mainstreaming in sectoral areas

12. Entities, including ESCWA, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) identified some sectoral areas, such as macroeconomic issues, including investment, finance and trade, and technical and scientific areas, such as transport and aviation, as challenging areas for gender mainstreaming. WFP noted that gender mainstreaming in humanitarian emergency policies and responses continued to lag behind mainstreaming in other types of operations, although more progress was evident in cases where emergency operations had been transformed into relief and recovery operations. The World Bank reported that despite progress, opportunities to improve the integration of gender perspectives into sectors such as economic policy, energy, public finance and expenditure and private sector development had not been fully utilized. IMF and the World Bank emphasized that the implementation of gender mainstreaming was often limited to health and education programmes. FAO noted that despite continuous and sustained activities, gender equality in rural development and agriculture had not yet been fully achieved.

III. Achievements in bridging the gap between policy and practice

13. In response to the identification of continuing challenges to their efforts in gender mainstreaming, and in response to the gap between policy and practice identified during the review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 in 2004, United Nations entities have continued to develop further policy, institutional and operational measures to enhance implementation of gender mainstreaming.

A. Gender mainstreaming action plans: adoption, contents and coverage

14. About one fourth of responding entities have already adopted gender mainstreaming implementation mechanisms that can be classified as action plans and are now in the process of implementing these action plans both at their headquarters and field offices. For example, gender mainstreaming action plans were adopted by: ESCWA in 1998; the International Labour Office (ILO) in 1999; and FAO in 2001;[3] the Department of Disarmament Affairs, IFAD and the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2003; the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in 2004; and UNDP in 2005. Some entities, such as FAO and UNDP, have either revised and updated their initial action plans or have adopted action plans that implement policies and strategies that have been in place for some time.

15. The content of action plans varies greatly from entity to entity. Most action plans, in particular initial plans, attempt to clarify and provide definitions of gender equality and gender mainstreaming strategies and programmes, explain the linkages between gender equality and relevant substantive areas of work and set the goals of and establish principles for gender mainstreaming within the relevant entity. Some action plans, such as those adopted by FAO and UNDP, are expressly linked to overall corporate planning processes, workplans and budgets.

16. Action plans establish lines of responsibilities and accountability for gender mainstreaming for staff and management. For example, the action plans of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and FAO describe the responsibilities for each headquarters division and branch and for field offices. Some action plans cover different levels of the respective United Nations entity. For example, UNICEF is operating with decentralized gender mainstreaming action plans in its regional and country offices, but does not yet have a corporate action plan.

17. Action plans focus on institutional mechanisms at both headquarters and decentralized offices, including gender focal points and gender desks/offices; monitoring, evaluation and reporting procedures; and capacity-building programmes. The FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action (2002-2007) addresses the specific role of its Women and Population Division as the corporate gender focal point to initiate follow-up action. UNESCO's action plan, the Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework (2002-2007), commits the organization to strengthening its in-house capacity in gender mainstreaming by 2007. In 2003, IOM prepared an action matrix to facilitate annual monitoring exercises.

18. Action plans adopted by the organizations of the common system also include guidelines on programme planning and implementation of their operational work in sectoral areas. For this purpose, some include specific tools. To facilitate practical implementation of gender mainstreaming, the action plans of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, IFAD and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs contain checklists for a number of activities.

19. Some action plans include specific time lines. The IFAD plan of action (2003-2006) makes an institutional commitment to 25 clearly defined and time-bound actions, accompanied by a set of indicators in three areas of action.

20. Some action plans, including that of FAO, emphasize the allocation of financial resources.

21. Some entities, such as IFAD, ILO and FAO, address partnerships and networking with other relevant actors in their action plans, including in relation to monitoring and evaluation.

22. It should be noted that many entities that do not yet have corporate or overall action plans are guided by policies, strategies or frameworks on gender mainstreaming. Several of these entities intend to draw up implementation frameworks for such policies and strategies in the form of action plans in the future (see sect. IV below).

B. Measures to bridge the gap between policy and practice

23. Several organizations provided information on a number of initiatives that were undertaken in different areas in order to fulfil their commitments to gender equality, including in relation to the implementation of gender mainstreaming action plans.

1. Institutional mechanisms

Programme budgets and multi-year funding frameworks

24. Several entities reported the incorporation of gender mainstreaming in entity-wide programming processes and the provision of financial resources as an attempt to bridge the gap between policy and practice. Substantial financial allocations were made by WFP for the implementation of the gender policy under its regular biennial management plan 2004-2005 and mainstreamed into programme budgets. ILO's programme and budget for 2004-2005 contains its Shared Operational Objective on Gender Equality with three indicators for measuring progress of ILO constituents and one internal organizational indicator. UNDP's multi-year funding framework for 2004-2007 identified the promotion of gender equality as one of the driving forces of development effectiveness. The multi-year funding framework of the United Nations Population Fund also set a specific goal for the achievement of gender equality and empowerment. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) strategic framework for 2006-2007 incorporated gender perspectives into the expected accomplishments of six out of eight subprogrammes. UNESCO has taken steps to ensure that its next programme and budget for 2006-2007, which is to be adopted at the thirty-third session of its General Conference in October 2005, will fully reflect the overall commitment of the member States of the organization to gender mainstreaming, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Gender specialist resources

25. A number of institutional arrangements were made to further support gender mainstreaming within entities, including the establishment of gender specialist posts, gender focal points or focal point networks, including in those entities that did not previously possess these resources, or only to a limited extent.

26. To support the implementation of its policy and action plan, a Senior Gender Adviser joined the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in March 2005, and a network of gender focal points in branch and field offices has been initiated. In October 2004, a Centre for Women was established within ESCWA. One of its main functions is to oversee gender mainstreaming and to assist Member States in this endeavour. The WFP Gender Unit at headquarters has expanded significantly, allowing for a more systematic implementation and mainstreaming of its gender policy. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has appointed a main gender focal point and five field focal points. In 2005, the Office of Internal Oversight Services established a Working Group on Gender, with the participation of all divisions, in order to strengthen the consideration of gender perspectives and fully engage the potential of the Office to serve as catalyst and enhance accountability for implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy in the Organization.

27. Some entities noted the positive results obtained through the involvement of gender focal points. ESCWA reported that its network of gender focal points had been particularly useful when formulating medium-term plans, strategic frameworks and programme budgets. IFAD noted that the inclusion of gender specialists on programme design missions had become a widespread practice. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that a gender expert was part of the evaluation team of an inter-agency real-time evaluation in Darfur, the Sudan, in January 2005. The expert had brought the need to strengthen the response to gender issues, in particular gender-based violence, to the attention of the humanitarian community.

28. Entities also reported on efforts to secure support through external gender specialist resources. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had established a short-term deployment roster with an international non-governmental organization in 2004 to provide selected operations with gender expertise to facilitate gender mainstreaming and provide follow-up on sexual and gender-based violence.

Capacity-building, including development of tools and resources

29. Most entities have developed and are implementing gender awareness and gender mainstreaming capacity-building activities, in particular training.

30. In implementing its action plan, FAO has trained staff to operationalize gender mainstreaming within the project cycle and has made use of its Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis Programme for this purpose, as well as for the provision of policy advice and technical assistance to Member States. As a result of its action plan, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has given attention to gender perspectives in inter-agency consolidated appeals process training programmes with partners, stressing the need for gender perspectives to be addressed in all sectoral projects. In 2004, following the adoption of its plan, UNESCO organized a workshop for gender focal points and later developed a comprehensive capacity development programme for gender mainstreaming in various sector programmes, with implementation scheduled to start in May 2005. UNESCO also plans to expand its gender mainstreaming capacity-building and training programme to sectors other than education in 2006 and 2007.

31. The WFP, under its Training and Learning Initiative, organized regional and country-level workshops that have assisted almost 700 field staff, government counterparts and cooperating partners to build the capacity required to implement the WFP Enhanced Commitments to Women. UNRWA has launched gender awareness-training for more than 700 social service field staff. To bridge the gap between policy and practice, training for the staff of UNHCR and partner organizations on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence continued, with a total of 152 persons trained from 27 different countries in 2004. The Department of Political Affairs has organized a series of gender mainstreaming workshops for its staff, including senior managers, which focused on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The workshops are expected to provide jointly developed elements for a future department-wide action plan. ILO is aiming to address the gap between policy and practice through training for gender focal points.

32. Many entities have also developed new tools and methodologies to support capacity-building programmes for staff, partners and beneficiaries.

33. Following the adoption of its action plan, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued guidelines on integrating gender perspectives into its situation reports and provided guidance for humanitarian information centres, emphasizing the need to include gender concerns in all data collection efforts as well as in the dissemination of information. The Office also developed a checklist to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into the development of the consolidated appeals process. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has also issued a framework for gender analysis in its response to the tsunami disaster. WFP has developed comprehensive guidelines, specifying minimum implementation requirements, to help staff and partners implement its Enhanced Commitments to Women policy. In addition, practical guidelines for gender-sensitive food security have been drafted. To bridge the gap between policies and their practical application in emergency responses, WFP has been working with other agencies to produce programme support tools to assist field staff, notably the matrix being developed in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on protection from sexual abuse and exploitation, the aim of which is to prevent and reduce gender-based violence in emergencies.

34. In 2004, the World Bank's Gender and Development Group designed new tools to guide operational teams in incorporating gender perspectives into country assistance strategy processes and HIV/AIDS operations. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) revised its policy and procedures guide for programming, emphasizing that gender mainstreaming with a human rights-based and culturally sensitive approach was a cross-cutting aspect of its work and required the full integration of women's and men's perspectives into reproductive health, population and development programmes. Guidelines and other materials were developed by ESCAP in 2004 to help substantive divisions of the Commission to mainstream gender concerns into their day-to-day work. ILO has developed an orientation kit for gender focal points, a three-language newsletter, ILO Gender News, and the ILO Gender Equality Tool website (www.ilo.org/gender).

35. In 2004, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations produced and launched a gender resource package for peacekeeping operations, which serves to facilitate the process of staff capacity-building. The Department also recently launched

guidelines to facilitate gender mainstreaming in mine action programmes and activities and will also improve its disciplinary standards and procedures and training resources to facilitate the prevention of sexual misconduct by peacekeeping personnel. UNESCO developed a gender training CD-ROM and handbook. The UNHCR Guidelines on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence have been translated into Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese, French, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Serbo-Croat. INSTRAW promoted the sharing of information, tools and good practices through its gender mainstreaming database, which includes an extensive collection of resources on gender mainstreaming produced by different agencies and organizations, as well as sections on lessons learned and good practices. As an added feature, the database also contains a glossary of the terminology most commonly used in gender mainstreaming in order to facilitate conceptual clarity and common understanding.

Accountability, monitoring and reporting

36. Entities reported that improved accountability measures had been put into place to ensure that senior management and staff at all levels undertake efforts to achieve gender mainstreaming in their work. A number of entities embarked on the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation tools for gender mainstreaming, including in relation to gender mainstreaming action plans. Several entities specifically noted progress and positive results that emerged from strengthened accountability, monitoring and evaluation processes, both in relation to processes and in terms of gender mainstreaming in programmes and activities.

37. UNDP has strengthened accountability with its Practice Note on Gender Equality, which holds staff and managers accountable for incorporating gender concerns into every aspect of its work. UNESCO improved the assessment framework in its programming and monitoring computer system to more effectively monitor the integration of gender perspectives into programme design and implementation. Following its baseline survey that aimed to define future benchmarks and targets, IFAD now uses a set of indicators to measure impact achievement in the project cycle; policy partnership, learning and innovations; and accountability and monitoring. ESCAP project development and monitoring processes use gender analysis, assess how project strategies and results frameworks seek to address gender inequalities and monitor the numbers of women participants and the numbers of women and girls reached by project interventions. UNDP has developed a Gender Scorecard as a monitoring tool to measure organizational performance and results. UNICEF issued a new tool on self-assessing progress on gender equality goals in country programmes as part of its 2004 core guidance. The tool is being used at planning and review stages in order to identify and address the gaps in programming for gender equality and women's rights. UNICEF has also developed new indicators in the area of child protection, with a focus on gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices. UNICEF is also preparing a joint tool for assessing the application of its human rights-based approach and gender equality in programmes, with a view to elaborating a tool that could be applied to national policies and development plans.

38. UNFPA has instituted an appreciative inquiry on gender mainstreaming, which will end in mid-2005, to assess gender mainstreaming capacity-building tools, substantive publications on gender equality and women's empowerment and the extent to which UNFPA's work in all areas has mainstreamed gender perspectives.

The inquiry will be a basis for assessing future directions in capacity-building and institutional accountability on gender mainstreaming within UNFPA. ILO's participatory gender audits, 22 of which have been conducted with ILO work units and regional offices since 2001, involved staff at all levels of the organization in an interactive and participatory process that identified needs in the area of gender mainstreaming. The UNDP gender mapping exercise in all country offices and bureaux provided a systematic framework for deepening analysis and planning.

39. At UNRWA, a gender field study was initiated in May 2004 with the aim of producing guidelines for the development of a gender mainstreaming strategy. WFP has launched baselines on all Enhanced Commitments to Women in 48 countries, which should allow it to objectively assess progress. In 2004, the World Bank developed its first Sector Strategy Implementation Update, which reported on the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy and included a draft gender results framework. In March 2005, the Governing Board of ILO requested the Director-General to make specific provisions in technical cooperation partnership agreements to guarantee and support gender mainstreaming in all programmes.

40. UNHCR launched a pilot project to enhance its gender mainstreaming capacity, which focused on promoting participatory assessments with refugee women and men of all ages to gather their views and concerns on the protection risks they face, to recognize their capacities and skills and to incorporate these into the planning process. Multidisciplinary teams undertook the participatory assessment in coordination with local and international partners in a total of 14 country operations. An evaluation of the pilot project was undertaken in eight of the pilot countries to review the methodology applied and to document lessons learned. The evaluation, which was completed in March 2005, will be used as a basis to refine the methodology for the expansion of the process to all UNHCR operations during 2005 and 2006.

41. IFAD reported that improvements in the gender-sensitive design of projects were noted in 2004 and that experience across the regions had revealed that when gender mainstreaming was clearly spelled out in programmes, reflected in loan agreements and upheld in interactions with cooperating institutions, the potential for gender-sensitive implementation was increased. UNDP noted the use of more targeted support for addressing gender perspectives through strategic and pilot initiatives by all organizational practice areas. ESCWA reported that the ratio of work-months for gender mainstreaming and total work months, used as monitoring criteria, improved from 29 per cent in 1998/99 to 34 per cent in 2002/03. UNFPA's global survey for the 10-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development assessed the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment goals in programme countries. The World Bank noted that 42 per cent of client countries in which the Bank is active had completed country gender assessments by the end of the fiscal year 2004. These assessments incorporated priority interventions to eliminate gender-related barriers to poverty reduction and economic growth. Gender analysis was also incorporated in the highest proportion of poverty assessments in 2004. The World Bank also reported that, of the 16 country assistance strategies discussed by the Board of Executive Directors in 2004, 81 per cent proposed gender-responsive actions in at least one sector, compared with about 50 per cent in 1998.

Sex-disaggregated statistics

42. Several entities reported progress in the collection, availability and use of sex-disaggregated statistics. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has continued to mainstream gender perspectives in the compilation and dissemination of social and demographic statistics. Regularly updated statistics and indicators on women and men are available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/ww2000/tables.htm. In addition, the Statistics Division has promoted methodological statistical developments that facilitate collection of data based on gender-sensitive concepts and methods. An interim report that will be part of the publication *World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics* was published in February 2005 and focused on sex-disaggregated statistics on population, births and deaths. The Division has made a trial International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics available on its website for comments. The Classification is sensitive to the differences between women and men in remunerated and unremunerated work (see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/tuse/tu3.aspx) and which will be revised following suggestions and comments received. The Division has also initiated work to review and update the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and plans to release the above-mentioned major publication, *World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*, in September 2005. This publication will examine progress over the last 30 years in the ability of countries to produce and report sex- and age-disaggregated statistics to the international statistical system. These statistics are needed to monitor, inter alia, the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Division has also prepared the publication *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*, which is to be released in 2005. This guide is a reference tool for countries interested in conducting time-use surveys.

43. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has continued to publish sex-disaggregated data, including in estimates and projections of population, age distribution and key mortality indicators, including infant and child mortality and life expectancy. The Division has recently issued new or updated databases providing data disaggregated by sex on international migration, marriage and family planning. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) continued to improve the quality, availability and use of gender statistics in the region. ESCWA integrated gender perspectives into indicators to monitor global conferences and the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP noted that the support provided by more than a third of its country offices in collecting sex-disaggregated data had facilitated the development of more gender-responsive common country assessments, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, poverty reduction strategy papers, Millennium Development Goal reports and national human development reports. UNRWA is in the process of developing a sex-disaggregated database, which will enhance its ability to plan, monitor and evaluate its activities.

44. As a result of its request for sex-disaggregated information in the database used for programme planning, monitoring and performance reporting, the Office of Internal Oversight Services was able to provide data on the participation of women respective to that of men in training at the United Nations. Of the 81,326 participants in more than 2,000 training events reported by 19 departments and

offices, 26,540 (33 per cent) were women. The report further stated that eight programmes fully implemented the instruction for the programme budget for 2002-2003 that each subprogramme define at least one expected accomplishment that reflected the most important gender dimension of its work. Nine programmes did so in some of their subprogrammes whereas nine others did not identify gender-related performance goals. Of the 470 statements of accomplishments in the programme performance report, 67 (14 per cent) made explicit references to gender perspectives in reporting on results achieved in substantive areas during the biennium.

2. Strategies to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming in sectoral areas

45. A few entities have recently taken steps to adopt policies or strategies on gender mainstreaming. In February 2005, at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Council adopted decision 23/11, entitled "Gender equality in the field of the environment". This decision tackled the critical issues of equal participation in decision-making, gender mainstreaming in environmental policies and programmes, and the assessment of effects on women of environmental policies. It contained guidelines for implementation, inviting Governments to actively involve all stakeholders in their gender equality and environment related activities.

46. A number of entities have continued to support other stakeholders, including Governments or inter-agency mechanisms, in incorporating gender perspectives into sectoral policy or programme formulation and implementation. The Office of the Special Adviser on Women and Gender Issues has continued to play an important coordination, policymaking and advocacy role and has initiated and contributed to the development of methodologies and tools, including through briefing notes on gender mainstreaming as well as competence building and training on gender-based analysis. As a follow-up to a case study methodology workshop initiated by the Office of the Special Adviser, specific studies were conducted in 15 countries.

47. Through its field-based work and at headquarters, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) continued to place a high priority on coordination mechanisms by demonstrating how to use the Millennium Development Goal processes as effective platforms for strengthening commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. Overall, UNIFEM contributed inputs into Millennium Development Goal processes in 15 countries and to the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework exercises in 14 countries in 2004, including through support for the involvement of national partners in these processes.

3. Operational activities

48. Many entities reported on operational activities that supported gender mainstreaming in various sectoral areas.

49. Through its technical cooperation programme, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is supporting the development of the capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women in Africa to influence national information and communication technology (ICT) policy processes from a gender perspective, as

well as facilitating their participation in the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, in order to bring attention to the gender digital divide. The Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs prepared a background document with a set of practical recommendations and case studies for gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation programmes, which was made available to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session. Recent publications of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs focused on gender perspectives of policies on reproductive rights and health, migration, mortality, ageing and population.

50. ECE provides a forum where gender statistics experts from Member States have discussed selected topics, such as the introduction of gender-based data into the work of national statistical offices and the measurement of gender-based attitudes. ESCAP has focused on the same issues, including integrating unpaid work into national policies, advocating the collection of sex-disaggregated data in censuses, and encouraging national accounting systems to focus on giving higher value to unpaid work and work in the informal sector. It has also undertaken gender mainstreaming activities within its capacity-building programme on multimodal transport. In ESCAP's flagship publication, the 2004 edition of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, gender dimensions of poverty were analysed and policy proposals were made to reduce the gender gap and mainstream gender perspectives in development, including in relation to older women, and employment.

51. The Department of Political Affairs and some of its field missions have continued to support efforts to give greater attention to gender perspectives in their work relating to political and electoral processes, including through meetings with women's groups during Security Council assessment missions and by encouraging Governments to promote gender equality and the equal representation and participation of women.

52. The Department of Public Information, including through its network of field offices, continues to strive to incorporate gender perspectives in the substantive work of its various programmes. In 2004-2005, the production of a publication, "Faces", highlighted the real life stories of women and men around the world who are working to ensure that gender perspectives are included in all aspects of the peace and reconstruction process. The radio programming of the Department continued to reflect a gender perspective in its news bulletins and current affairs magazines in various languages, including in relation to: housing; peace processes; migrant women who work as domestic employees; women in politics in countries in transition; and the female face of poverty in Latin America.

53. Gender units of some peacekeeping missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provide technical inputs and facilitate the incorporation of gender perspectives in the drafting of new constitutions and legislation and cooperate with national and international partners to integrate gender perspectives into electoral processes. Gender units also provide technical advice to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration teams, including advising on the design of cantonment sites and meeting the specific needs of women and girls associated with armed forces and groups.

54. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) noted that the visibility of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that addressed the gender-

related vulnerabilities to HIV was among the achievements of its Southern Africa Youth Initiative.

55. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has published a report entitled "Mainstreaming Gender in Environmental Assessment and Early Warning", and the *GEO Year Book 2004/5* on the global environment outlook dedicated a chapter to gender, poverty and the environment.

56. UNICEF has addressed child protection, taking into account gender perspectives at the global level through research and advocacy and, in cooperation with its partners at the national level, through media and advocacy campaigns, legislative reform, counselling and rehabilitation services as well as capacity-building and awareness-raising of police, judges and other officials to ensure the proper enforcement of existing laws. Three-quarters of UNICEF country offices now work on awareness-raising and behavioural change activities to counter gender-based violence, which has been identified as a key concern in this area. UNICEF and other members of the United Nations country team gender working group in Sri Lanka have also contributed to the discussion of this dimension in the joint needs assessment for a recovery plan for the country. UNICEF has also focused on the specific circumstances of girls associated with fighting armed forces, in recognition of the fact that programming in this area has tended to ignore the existence of girl soldiers. In 2004, UNICEF launched the "Girls left behind" project in Sierra Leone to ensure the protection and reintegration of abducted girls and young women and to offer them basic education and skills training.

57. UNIFEM has advocated for gender mainstreaming in national and local budgets, poverty reduction strategies and trade regimes, endeavoured to incorporate gender perspectives into poverty reduction strategies and to ensure women's participation in the poverty reduction strategy processes in 2004. It also worked to mainstream the gender and human rights dimensions of HIV/AIDS into national AIDS plans in several countries, in cooperation with other network and national partners. With a view to strengthening institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming, UNIFEM has supported efforts to build sustainable skills and commitments to develop and use sex-disaggregated databases in several countries in Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. In the area of governance, UNIFEM has worked to incorporate gender perspectives in coordinated needs assessments in post-conflict reconstruction processes in Africa and the Arab States. In South Asia, Afghanistan and Mexico, a key focus has been to build the capacity of judiciary and governance institutions to align and apply their policies in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

58. UNFPA reported the emergence of partnerships in several countries where gender-sensitive budgeting programmes were being used to secure greater investments in girls' education, sexual and reproductive health, women's political participation and ending gender-based violence.

59. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is implementing a comprehensive programme, including special attention for girls and women within and outside the criminal justice system in post-conflict reconstruction. The Office's drug demand reduction activities include gender perspectives in order to ensure that services and information are available to women and girls. In this context, a guide to substance abuse treatment was published in 2004. Support for alternative

development, aimed at reduction of the drug supply, has been provided within a framework of gender-sensitive planning, environmental protection and sustainability.

60. Assessments and reviews of progress in mainstreaming gender perspectives into programmes and policies are considered as part of in-depth evaluations, inspections and audits of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The reports of the Office on the in-depth evaluations of the electoral assistance programme, the work of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the inspections of programme management and administrative practices in UNEP, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the International Trade Centre (ITC) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization (UNCTAD/WTO) all include gender perspectives.

61. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa noted that the second consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the New Partnership for Africa's Development specifically pointed out progress in gender mainstreaming (A/59/206, para. 28).

62. In 2004, for the first time, ILO conducted gender audits for its constituents, rather than its own offices.

63. IMO through its programme on strengthening the integration of women in the organization's technical cooperation activities aims at reinforcing regional networks for women in the maritime sector as well as national capacities through fellowships and training.

64. In 2004, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) developed a 5-year research programme, devoting one of the six programme areas to gender and development. With this new programme, UNRISD will strengthen its efforts to mainstream gender analysis in all its other programme areas.

65. The United Nations University has conducted research and policy studies with relevance to gender equality in a number of areas, including economic development, new technologies, natural resource management, armed conflict, leadership, trafficking and poverty. The University, which has also considered the linkages between academic research and gender-sensitive policymaking, noted that it has moved away from a focus on women to research projects incorporating gender perspectives, including: African institutional reform and post-conflict peacebuilding; inequality and social structures in economies in transition; and refugees and internally displaced persons.

66. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) organized training seminars on intellectual property rights for women entrepreneurs and invited experts in the field to speak at events for women entrepreneurs and inventors.

67. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has encouraged the designation of national gender focal points in Member States to ensure gender mainstreaming in its work.

68. The 2004 joint IMF/World Bank report on the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers noted an increase in poverty-reducing expenditures in 14 countries, especially in the areas of health and education, which were seen to have implications for women in particular. The World Bank integrated gender perspectives into operational design in nearly all projects in health, education, social

development and rural development, and in more than 75 per cent of the projects in public sector, water supply and sanitation and transport in 2004.

4. Inter-agency collaboration

69. At its fourth session, in February 2005, the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality organized a workshop entitled "Ten-year review of gender mainstreaming: focusing on results". The purpose of the workshop was to identify practical steps to accelerate progress towards the achievement of gender equality against the backdrop of current challenges and emerging global issues. Participants explored new initiatives, suggested ways of improving methods for gender mainstreaming and discussed how the Network could strengthen coordination at the national, regional and international levels.

70. The Inter-Agency Network's Task Force on Gender Mainstreaming in common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes finalized a resource guide for gender theme groups and gender experts at the country level. Its Task Force on Gender and Trade launched a publication on gender and trade in 2004 and also took advantage of several opportunities to advocate gender mainstreaming including the meeting with policymakers at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in 2004 and the World Trade Organization (WTO) symposium on the subject. The Task Force on Gender and Water promoted the integration of gender perspectives in the formulation of strategies to meet the relevant Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation, including in the context of the International Water for Life Decade (2005-2015).

71. The Inter-Agency Network's Task Force on Gender Mainstreaming in Evaluation, Monitoring and Programme Reporting, established pursuant to recommendations of its 2004 workshop on mainstreaming a gender perspective in evaluation, monitoring and programme reporting, completed a study that noted that, despite a proliferation of tools and activities and some good practices in the area, monitoring and evaluation of gender policies and programmes was still the weakest area in such reporting. Another Inter-Agency Network Task Force on Indigenous Women, established in 2004 to further promote the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the area of indigenous peoples, had produced an information kit on relevant issues.

72. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee endorsed a statement of commitment on actions to address gender-based violence in emergencies. Its Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance is currently developing a matrix on prevention and response to gender-based violence to guide actions of all actors in emergency situations. Its Task Force on Protection from Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation has taken several steps to ensure full implementation of the Secretary-General's Bulletin on protection from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation (ST/SGB/2003/13), including the development of a toolkit on gender-based violence aiming to provide practical guidance to humanitarian actors on coordination and activities for the prevention and management of gender-based violence in humanitarian crises.

73. UNAIDS reported on the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, for which it is the secretariat. Since its establishment in February 2004, the Coalition has attempted to ensure collective action of its member organizations and has used innovative partnerships between United Nations entities and civil society

organizations in its work on seven action areas and two cross-cutting thematic areas, leadership development for women; and the involvement of men and boys.

IV. Future action to bridge the gap between policy and practice

A. Adoption of gender mainstreaming action plans

74. Several entities intend to develop gender mainstreaming action plans. The gender mainstreaming workshops run by the Department of Political Affairs are expected to develop elements for a departmental gender mainstreaming action plan. Within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, a planning process is under way to facilitate the development of a Department-wide action plan on gender mainstreaming, which will include a training component for staff and senior managers at Headquarters and within field missions. IAEA is currently in the process of developing a gender mainstreaming policy, to be followed by an action plan. The United Nations University is currently preparing a gender mainstreaming action plan. WMO is developing a gender policy and a time-bound action plan to focus its gender equality activities. In a decision of its Governing Board, which invited its Executive Director to explore options for developing an action plan for gender mainstreaming, UNEP decided to dedicate specific resources, and to work through memoranda of understanding with eminent gender experts, in order to develop a comprehensive action plan for gender mainstreaming.

B. Monitoring and review of existing action plans and gender mainstreaming policies and strategies

75. Several entities intend to review their gender policies, strategies or action plans in the near future. IFAD is planning a midterm review of its gender plan of action in 2005, which will provide quantitative and qualitative information related to the benchmarks set by the baseline survey. In addition, there is an ongoing evaluation of programmes for gender equality and women's empowerment funded through grants and supplementary funds at regional, national and local levels. This will include an evaluation of the role and mandates of gender focal points within the organization. UNICEF is planning an assessment of all decentralized action plans and the situation of gender mainstreaming in general in 2005. In 2006, it will design an overall strategy to enhance gender mainstreaming within the organization. WFP plans to conduct follow-up on its baseline surveys on all eight Enhanced Commitments to Women in 2007. UNRWA is in the process of developing an agency-wide gender mainstreaming strategy, which should be completed by late 2005.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

76. **In response to the outcome of the review of the Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2, United Nations entities have continued to identify gaps between policy and practice in gender mainstreaming in their respective fields of work. While challenges to the integration of gender perspectives in policies and programmes are visible in all sectoral areas,**

challenges are particularly obvious when implementation takes place in the context of complex, multisectoral interventions involving many different actors at both the field and headquarters levels. Further challenges relate to inadequate institutional mechanisms, including in the area of data collection, monitoring, reporting and training.

77. **Entities have taken steps to address these challenges, including through the adoption of gender mainstreaming action plans. These plans have been instrumental in moving entities beyond policy formulation towards implementation, especially if they are accompanied by specific timelines and results-based monitoring mechanisms.**

78. **The Economic and Social Council may wish to take note of the progress achieved. With reference to the need for the continued implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 and the recommendations proposed in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2004/59), the Council may wish to encourage United Nations entities to:**

(a) **Develop action plans, where these do not yet exist, with clear guidelines on the practical implementation of gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes;**

(b) **Ensure that action plans include timelines and specific provisions on institutional mechanisms at both headquarters and field offices, including on: monitoring, evaluation and reporting; human and financial resources; capacity-building; and partnerships and inter-agency collaboration;**

(c) **Ensure that action plans are fully coordinated with overall corporate goals and strategies;**

(d) **Fully incorporate gender perspectives in programme budgets and multi-year funding frameworks and into all results-based budgeting processes;**

(e) **Strengthen accountability systems for all staff for gender mainstreaming, including through performance appraisals;**

(f) **Incorporate gender perspectives into operational mechanisms, including the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, poverty reduction strategy papers and reporting and implementation frameworks, such as those for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals;**

(g) **Strengthen inter-agency and country team collaboration on gender mainstreaming, including through the creation or expansion of electronic knowledge networks on gender mainstreaming;**

(h) **Further develop and institutionalize monitoring and evaluation tools and gender impact analysis methodologies and ensure the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data.**

Notes

[1] The following 38 entities of the United Nations common system provided information in response to a request for information from the Division for the Advancement of Women: Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Equality and Advancement of Women, Division for Social Policy and Development, Division for Sustainable Development, Statistics Division, Population Division; Department of Political Affairs; Department of Peacekeeping Operations; Department of Public Information; Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Labour Organization (ILO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Maritime Organization (IMO); United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Office of Internal Oversight Services; Office of the Special Adviser on Africa; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD); United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); United Nations University; World Bank; World Food Programme (WFP); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); and World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Information was also submitted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

[2] E/2004/59, para. 81.

[3] FAO's current Gender and Development Plan of Action (2002-2007), which addresses gender mainstreaming, builds on experience from its previous action plans (1989-1995) and (1996-2001).